

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A seatbelt device having

a pretensioner configured to cooperate with at least one of a lap anchor portion and a buckle portion;

wherein said pretensioner includes a connector portion, and said at least one of lap anchor portion and buckle portion comprise an anchor for being inserted into and engaged with said connector portion; and

wherein said connector portion includes a latch mechanism for engaging said anchor with the connector portion, and a disengagement prevention mechanism for preventing disengagement between said connector portion and said anchor in the event that a force acts upon said connector portion in a direction that urges disengagement of the connector portion and the anchor.

2. The device of Claim 1, wherein said latch mechanism comprises a latch for engaging said anchor with said connector portion and an elastic pressing member for pressing said latch in the direction of engagement between said anchor and said connector portion.

3. The device of Claim 2, wherein said disengagement prevention mechanism comprises an elastic prevention member for engaging with said latch and preventing said latch from moving in the direction of disengagement of said anchor and said connector portion.

4. The device of Claim 3, wherein said elastic pressing member and said elastic prevention member are both formed of leaf springs.

5. An device for protecting an occupant of a vehicle comprising:
 - a seatbelt; an anchor connected to a lap belt portion of the seat belt for securing the lap belt portion of the seat belt to the vehicle; a pretensioner engaged with the anchor;
 - a first elastic member positioned and configured to urge the anchor and the pretensioner to remain engaged; and
 - a second elastic member positioned to prevent the pretensioner and the anchor from being disengaged when a force is applied to the seatbelt in the event that the vehicle is involved in a collision.
6. The device of Claim 5, wherein the elastic members are leaf springs.
7. The device of Claim 5, further comprising a tongue connected to the seat belt.
8. The device of Claim 5, further comprising a buckle for receiving the tongue when the seat belt is worn by the occupant.
9. The device of claim 5, further comprising a retractor for winding the seatbelt around a spool when the seatbelt is not being worn by the occupant.